



## Louis Armstrong

Raised in abject poverty in New Orleans' legendary Storyville District, Louis Daniel Armstrong went on to become one of the universally recognized giants in the history of jazz.

He left school by fifth grade and sang on street corners to help support his family. His formal music training ironically began after he was put into a boy's home for shooting a gun to celebrate New Year's in 1910. At the Colored Waif's Home, he learned to play the bugle, coronet, and to read music. Eighteen months later, he emerged with the determination to become a musician.

Armstrong learned to play the trumpet when his mentor, Joe 'King' Oliver, took an interest in him. His trumpet playing and singing became immensely popular—he was often referred to as the 'World's Greatest Trumpet Player.' During a recording session in 1926, Armstrong dropped the lyric sheet to 'Heebie Jeebies' and was forced to improvise his lines. He imitated the sounds of the horn so naturally that 'scat singing' was born. His biggest selling record of all time was his rendition of the tune "Ain't Misbehavin'," which he recorded in 1929.

Armstrong appeared in more than 50 motion pictures, numerous television productions, and hosted a national radio show. He died in 1971.

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1901-1971

*Legends of American Music-Volume Two*



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Stamp issue year: 1995

